

# The Enemy In the Secret Chambers

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*And ye also shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all I have told you must come to pass. But the end is not yet. Behold, I have told you before, Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth. Behold, he is in **the secret chambers**; believe it not. For as the light of the morning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, and covereth the whole earth; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:25-27; cf. John 18:20 & Luke 12:1-3)*

*And again I say unto you, that **the enemy in the secret chambers** seeketh your lives. Ye hear of wars in far countries, and ye say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land. **I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom** in your bosoms, lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you, by their wickedness, in a manner that shall speak in your ears, with a voice louder than that which shall shake the earth: but if ye are prepared, ye shall not fear. (D&C 38:6b-d; cf. D&C 63:9a-c)*

## The Enemy, Even Satan

The Lord warned His newly founded church in these latter days that *the enemy in the secret chambers* was seeking their lives.<sup>1</sup> Who was this enemy? In *an inspired exposition* of the parable of the wheat and the tares<sup>2</sup> the Lord identified *the enemy* as Satan, the one who sits in the hearts of the nations and *the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon.*<sup>3</sup>

*Verily thus saith the Lord unto you, my servants, concerning the parable of the wheat and the tares: Behold, verily I say that the*

<sup>1</sup> (D&C 38:6b with D&C 37:1b, D&C 38:2c, 3c, 4a, & 7a)

<sup>2</sup> (Matthew 13:22-29)

<sup>3</sup> (cf. I Nephi 7:26-64 & II Nephi 7:22-33 & 12:22-33)

*field was the world, and the apostles were the sowers of the seed; and after they have fallen asleep, the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts **the enemy, even Satan**, sitteth to reign; behold, he soweth the tares, wherefore the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness. (D&C 84:1)*

In an epistle to the first century church, the apostle Peter described how Satan, our adversary the devil, goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.<sup>4</sup> Peter had experienced the devastating bitterness of his enemy's cunning first hand.<sup>5</sup> The night of Jesus' betrayal, our Lord warned Peter that Satan was

<sup>4</sup> (I Peter 5:8)

<sup>5</sup> (cf. D&C 22:13)

seeking his life to *sift the children of the kingdom as wheat*.<sup>6</sup> Peter had affirmed a valiant allegiance to Jesus, even unto death if need be, but as Jesus prophesied, Peter rudely denied his Lord and friend three times within a short span that evening; and Peter went out and wept bitterly.<sup>7</sup> Now, however, as admonished by the Lord, the converted Peter sought to strengthen his brethren by encouraging them to be sober and vigilant in their faith so they might not become prey to the enemy of their souls.<sup>8</sup>

Jesus Christ gave the peoples of this land the same warning that He had given to Peter (which Peter in turn had given to his brethren of the church).<sup>9</sup>

*...Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always, lest ye enter into temptation; for **satan desireth to have you, that he may sift you as wheat**; Therefore, ye must always pray unto the Father in My name... (III Nephi 8:50,51)*

Like those before them, Satan desired to have the more righteous among the Nephites and Lamanites to sift them as wheat.<sup>10</sup> Now, through latter day revelation, Jesus Christ delivered the same message to His restored church, warning her members that *the enemy in secret chambers* was seeking their lives – warning them that Satan their enemy desired to have them even as he sought Peter and the peoples of old on this land.

Tragically, the early restored church did not heed the Lord's counsel of warning.<sup>11</sup> As related in a parable, the early church allowed the enemy to break into the *vineyard* of the Lord and destroy and tear down the work He had commanded them to complete.

*And now, I will show unto you a parable that you may know my will concerning the redemption of Zion. A certain nobleman had a spot of land, very choice; and he said unto his servants, Go ye into my vineyard, even upon this very choice piece of land, and plant twelve olive trees; and set watchmen round about them and build a tower, that one may overlook the land round about, to be a watchman upon the tower; that mine olive trees may not be broken down, when **the enemy** shall come to spoil and take unto themselves the fruit of my vineyard.*

*Now the servants of the nobleman went and did as their lord commanded them; and planted the olive trees, and built a hedge round about, and set watchmen, and began to build the tower.*

*And while they were yet laying the foundation thereof, they began to say among themselves, And what need hath my lord of this tower? and consulted for a long time, saying among themselves, What need hath my lord of this tower, seeing this is a time of peace? Might not this money be given to the exchangers? for there is no need of these things!*

*And while they were **at variance one with another** they became very slothful, and they hearkened not unto the commandments of their lord, and **the enemy** came by night and broke down the hedge, and the servants of the nobleman arose, and were affrighted, and fled; **and the enemy destroyed their works and broke the olive trees down.** (D&C 98:6)*

Had they obeyed the following commandment, to give diligent heed to *the words of eternal life*,<sup>12</sup> this disastrous result would not have happened.

*And now I give unto you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life; for you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from*

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<sup>6</sup> (Luke 22:31,32 IR)

<sup>7</sup> (Luke 22:31-34 & 60-62)

<sup>8</sup> (cf. II Peter 5:8 with Luke 22:32)

<sup>9</sup> (cf. I Peter 1:10-16 & D&C 85:22,23)

<sup>10</sup> (cf. III Nephi 4:66)

<sup>11</sup> (D&C 102:1-3)

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<sup>12</sup> (cf. Genesis 6:62 with Helaman 2:44)

the mouth of God.

For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ; and the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father; and the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world:

and the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under darkness and under the bondage of sin: and by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me; for whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin; and whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me; and by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now. (D&C 83:7)

Why the command to *beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life*? In the beginning, Satan volunteered to be the Savior of the world.<sup>13</sup> His plan was to get power and glory for himself by taking away the agency (stewardship) of mankind.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, the Lord cast Satan down by the power of His Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth.<sup>15</sup> Now, in his fallen state, Satan goes about seeking whom he may devour, namely those who will not hearken unto the voice of the Lord.<sup>16</sup>

*Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency*

<sup>13</sup> (Genesis 3:1,2 Inspired Revision or IR)

<sup>14</sup> (vs. 4)

<sup>15</sup> (vs. 3,4)

<sup>16</sup> (cf. Daniel 9)

*of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan. Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, **even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.** (Genesis 3:4,5 IR)*

Lest we fall prey to the enemy of our souls, we too must give diligent heed to our Lord's words, especially those brought forth in these latter days through the Book of Mormon.<sup>17</sup> Why the Book of Mormon? This plain and precious record contains a detailed account of how Satan destroyed the peoples of this land, including a righteous branch of the Lord's covenant peoples, because they failed to heed His counsel and commandments.<sup>18</sup> In particular, it describes how their enemy, the devil, worked through secret combinations or societies to tempt men to seek power and wealth, even as he had in the beginning, instead of seeking the welfare of Zion.<sup>19</sup> Here are some of the key lessons found in the Book of Mormon on the treachery of how *the enemy in the secret chambers* works among those who do not give diligent heed to the Lord's word, and thereby takes them captive at his will.<sup>20</sup>

### The Enemy in Secret Chambers

1. The main secret society found in the Book of Mormon among the Nephites and Lamanites was called *the secret society of Gaddianton*. Some who belonged to it affirmed that they knew it to be good, even though it proved to be so destructive to the people of Nephi.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> (cf. II Nephi 13:30 & 14:4,11,12 with D&C 83:8)

<sup>18</sup> (cf. II Nephi 1:34 & 3:8,9)

<sup>19</sup> (cf. II Nephi 11:106-124 with Genesis 5:6-43 IR)

<sup>20</sup> (cf. II Timothy 2:24-26)

<sup>21</sup> (e.g. III Nephi 1:48-57 & IV Nephi 1:50-54 with Helaman 1:51,52, 4:33,34 & Mormon 1:19,20)

*And behold, I am Giddianhi and am the governor of this, **the secret society of Gaddianton**, which society and the works thereof I know to be good; and they are of ancient date and they have been handed down unto us. (III Nephi 2:11)*

*And behold, in the end of this book ye shall see that this Gaddianton did prove the overthrow, yea, almost the entire destruction of the people of Nephi. Behold, I do not mean the end of the book of Helaman, but I mean the end of the book of Nephi from which I have taken all the account which I have written. (Helaman 1:51,52)*

2. These secret societies were often referred to as *secret bands* or *secret combinations*.

*And it came to pass in the forty and ninth year of the reign of the judges, there was continual peace established in the land, all save it were **the secret combinations which Gaddianton the robber had established** in the more settled parts of the the land, which at that time were not known unto those which were at the head of the government; Therefore, they were not destroyed out of the land. (Helaman 2:21)*

*And now it had come to pass that there were many, even among the Nephites, **of Gaddianton's band**; But behold, they were more numerous among the more wicked part of the Lamanites. (Helaman 2:142)*

*Yea, wo be unto you because of that great abomination which has come among you! And ye have united yourselves unto it, yea, **to that secret band which was established by Gaddianton**. (Helaman 3:28)*

*And it came to pass that the wicked part of the people began again to build up **the secret oaths and combinations of Gaddianton**; And also the people which were called the people of Nephi began to be proud in their hearts be-*

*cause of their exceeding riches and became vain like unto their brethren, the Lamanites. (IV Nephi 1:50,51)*

3. The devil is the author of all such secret combinations or societies.<sup>22</sup>

*O the wisdom of God, His mercy and grace! For behold, if the flesh should rise no more, our spirits must become subject to that angel which fell from before the presence of the Eternal God and became the devil, to rise no more; And our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God and to remain with the father of lies, in misery like unto himself; Yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents, who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light **and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder and all manner of secret works of darkness**. (II Nephi 6:19-23)*

*And there are also secret combinations, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the devil; **for he is the founder of all these things**, yea, the founder of murder, and works of darkness, Yea, and he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords forever. For, behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you that the Lord God worketh not in darkness. (II Nephi 11:93-95)*

*Yea, **it is that same being** who put it into the heart of Gaddianton to still carry on the work of darkness, and of secret murder; And he hath brought it forth from the beginning of man, even down to this time; And behold, it is he who is the author of all sin. And behold, he doth carry on his works of darkness and secret murder, and doth hand down their plots and their oaths and their covenants and their plans of awful wickedness from generation to gen-*

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<sup>22</sup> (Helaman 2:150-156 with Genesis 5:37 IR)

eration, according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men. (Helaman 2:155,156)

*And behold, they both belong to your secret band, whose author is Gaddianton and the evil one which seeketh to destroy the souls of men.* (Helaman 3:66)

4. The Lord does not work in any secret societies or combinations, for they are abominable to Him.<sup>23</sup> As Jesus Christ warned, if anyone tells you He is in *the secret chambers*, believe it not because it is a lie from *the father of all lies*.<sup>24</sup>

*Come ye near unto me; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was declared have I spoken. And the Lord God and his Spirit hath sent me.* (I Nephi 6:23)

*And it came to pass that they formed a secret combination, even as they of old which combination is most abominable and wicked above all in the sight of God; **For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations**, neither doth He will that man should shed blood, but in all things hath forbidden it, from the beginning of man.* (Ether 3:92,93)

*For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you that the Lord God worketh not in darkness...And He doeth nothing save it be plain unto the children of men...* (II Nephi 11:95,112)

5. The secret societies or combinations in the Book of Mormon times were from ancient origin, from the time of Cain, and they are perpetuated throughout the generations by the devil, *that same being who did entice our first parents to partake of the forbidden fruit and*

<sup>23</sup> (cf. I John 3:8 & I Nephi 6:23 with II Nephi 7:22-26 & 12:96-99)

<sup>24</sup> (cf. Matthew 24:26 with John 8:44 & Genesis 5:38,43 IR)

who plotted with Cain to murder his brother Abel to get gain secretly.<sup>25</sup>

*Now behold, those secret oaths and covenants did not come forth unto Gaddianton from the records which were delivered unto Helaman; But behold, they were put into the heart of Gaddianton by that same being who did entice our first parents to partake of the forbidden fruit; yea, the same being who did plot with Cain, that if he would murder his brother Abel, it should not be known unto the world; And he did plot with Cain and his followers, from that time forth.*

*And also it is that same being who put it into the hearts of the people, to build a tower sufficiently high that they might get to heaven. And it was that same being who led on the people which came from that tower into this land, which spread the works of darkness and abominations over all the face of the land until he dragged the people down to an entire destruction and to an everlasting hell,*

*Yea, it is that same being who put it into the heart of Gaddianton to still carry on the work of darkness and of secret murder; **And he has brought it forth from the beginning of man, even down to this time.***

*And behold, it is he which is the author of all sin; And behold, he doth carry on his works of darkness and secret murder, and doth hand down their plots and their oaths and their covenants and their plans of awful wickedness from generation to generation, according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men.* (Helaman 2:150-156)

*And Akish did administer unto them the oaths which were given by them of old who also sought power, which had been **handed down, even from Cain** who was a murderer from the beginning; And they were kept up by the power of the devil to administer these*

<sup>25</sup> (cf. Genesis 5:6-23 IR with Ether 3:47,114 & III Nephi 2:11)

*oaths unto the people to keep them in darkness, to help such as sought power to gain power, and to murder, and to plunder, and to lie, and to commit all manner of wickedness and whoredoms. (Ether 3:89,90)*

6. The members of the secret society of Gaddianton had their secret signs and words to distinguish them from those not of their craft.

*And it came to pass that they did have their signs, yea, their secret signs and their secret words; and this that they might distinguish a brother who had entered into the covenant, that whatsoever wickedness his brother should do, he should not be injured by his brother, nor by those who did belong to his band who had taken this covenant. (Helaman 2:146)*

*And now my son, I command you that ye retain all their oaths and their covenants and their agreements in their secret abominations; yea, and all their signs and their wonders ye shall retain from this people, that they know them not, lest peradventure they should fall into darkness also and be destroyed; For behold, there is a curse upon all this land that destruction shall come upon all those workers of darkness, according to the power of God, when they are fully ripe. Therefore, I desire that this people might not be destroyed; Therefore, ye shall keep these secret plans of their oaths and their covenants from this people, and only their wickedness and their murders and their abominations shall ye make known unto them. (Alma 17:59-61)*

7. Those who revealed the secrets of their secret societies or combinations were to be judged by the laws and covenants of the society or combination, not according to the just laws of the land.<sup>26</sup>

*And whosoever of those which belonged to*

*their band should reveal unto the world of their wickedness and their abominations, should be tried, not according to the laws of their country, but according to the laws of their wickedness which had been given by Gaddianton and Kishkumen. (Helaman 2:148)*

8. It is not wisdom in God for the secret oaths, covenants, agreements, signs, plans, etc., of their craft to be revealed. Doing so greatly assist the devil in tempting people to build up his secret works of darkness among them and, thereby, bring a curse upon their land.<sup>27</sup>

*And now my son, I command you that ye retain all their oaths and their covenants and their agreements in their secret abominations; yea, and all their signs and their wonders ye shall retain from this people, that they know them not, lest peradventure they should fall into darkness also, and be destroyed; For behold, there is a curse upon all this land that destruction shall come upon all those workers of darkness, according to the power of God, when they are fully ripe.*

*Therefore I desire that this people might not be destroyed; Therefore, ye shall keep these secret plans of their oaths and their covenants from this people, and only their wickedness and their murders and their abominations shall ye make known unto them; And ye shall teach them to abhor such wickedness and abominations and murders, and ye shall also teach them that these people were destroyed on account of their wickedness and abominations and their murders; For behold, they murdered all the prophets of the Lord who came among them to declare unto them concerning their iniquities; and the blood of those whom they murdered did cry unto the Lord their God for vengeance upon those who were their murderers.*

*And thus the judgments of God did come upon these workers of darkness and secret*

<sup>26</sup> (cf. Genesis 5:36,37 with Ether 3:88,89)

<sup>27</sup> (cf. Ether 3:80,81 with Helaman 1:38-49)

combinations; yea, and cursed be the land forever and ever unto those workers of darkness and secret combinations, even unto destruction, except they repent before they are fully ripe.

And now my son, remember the words which I have spoken unto you; Trust not those secret plans unto this people, but teach them an everlasting hatred against sin and iniquity; Preach unto them repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; Teach them to humble themselves, and to be meek and lowly in heart; Teach them to withstand every temptation of the devil with their faith on the Lord Jesus Christ; Teach them to never be weary of good works, but to be meek and lowly in heart; for such shall find rest to their souls. (Alma 17:59-67)

9. These secret combinations are built up to get glory, i.e. power and gain, and **moreover** that they might commit adultery,<sup>28</sup> steal, kill, and do according to their own wills.

... it was the object of all those which belonged to his band to murder and to rob and to gain power, and this was their secret plan and their combination... (Helaman 1:44)

And thus they might murder and plunder and steal and commit whoredoms and all manner of wickedness contrary to the laws of their country, and also the laws of their God. (Helaman 2:147)

Behold, now it came to pass in the sixty and ninth year of the reign of the judges over the people of the Nephites that Nephi, the son of Helaman, returned to the land of Zarahemla ...and did preach the word of God unto them, and did prophesy many things unto them; And they did reject all his words insomuch that he could not stay among them, but returned again unto the land of his nativity.

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<sup>28</sup> (cf. D&C 111:4b with D&C 42:7d,e & 63:5)

And seeing the people in a state of such awful wickedness and those Gaddianton robbers filling the judgment seats, having usurped the power and authority of the land, laying aside the commandments of God and not in the least aright before Him, doing no justice unto the children of men, condemning the righteous because of their righteousness, letting the guilty and the wicked go unpunished because of their money;

And moreover, to be held in office at the head of government to rule and to do according to their wills, that they might get gain and glory of the world; **and moreover**, that they might the more easily commit adultery and steal and kill and do according to their own wills. (Helaman 3:1-4)

Hath he not read the record which our fathers brought across the great deep? Behold, is there not an account concerning them of old, that they by their secret plans did obtain kingdoms and great glory? (Ether 3:80,81)

And Akish did administer unto them the oaths which were given by them of old who also sought power, which had been handed down, even from Cain who was a murderer from the beginning; And they were kept up by the power of the devil to administer these oaths unto the people to keep them in darkness, to help such as sought power to gain power, and to murder, and to plunder, and to lie, and to commit all manner of wickedness and whoredoms. (Ether 3:89,90)

Yea, why do ye build up your secret abominations to get gain, and cause that widows should mourn before the Lord? And also orphans to mourn before the Lord? And also the blood of their fathers and their husbands to cry unto the Lord from the ground for vengeance upon your heads? (Mormon 4:55)

And it came to pass that there arose a rebellion among the people, because of that secret

*combination which was built up to get power and gain... (Ether 4:107)*

**10.** God's judgments were and are upon those who join themselves to such combinations.<sup>29</sup>

*And thus the judgments of God did come upon these workers of darkness and secret combinations; yea, and cursed be the land for ever and ever unto those workers of darkness and secret combinations, even unto destruction, except they repent before they are fully ripe. (Alma 17:64)*

*O how could you have forgotten your God in the very day that he has delivered you? But behold, it is to get gain, to be praised of men; yea, and that ye might get gold and silver; And ye have set your hearts upon the riches and the vain things of this world, for the which ye do murder and plunder and steal and bear false witness against your neighbor and do all manner of iniquity; and for this cause, wo shall come unto you, except ye shall repent!*

*For if ye will not repent, behold, this great city, and also all those great cities which are round about, which are in the land of our possession, shall be taken away, that ye shall have no place in them, for behold, the Lord will not grant unto you strength, as He has hitherto done, to withstand against your enemies. For behold, thus saith the Lord: I will not shew unto the wicked of My strength, to one more than the other, save it be unto those who repenteth of their sins and hearken unto My words;*

*Now therefore, I would that ye should behold, my brethren, that it shall be better for the Lamanites than for you, except ye shall repent; for behold, they are more righteous than you, for they have not sinned against that great knowledge which ye have received; Therefore, the Lord will be merciful unto them; yea, He will lengthen out their days and*

*increase their seed, even when thou shalt be utterly destroyed, except thou shalt repent.*

*Yea, wo be unto you because of that great abomination which has come among you! And ye have united yourselves unto it, yea, to that secret band which was established by Gaddianton.*

*Yea, wo shall come unto you because of that pride which ye have suffered to enter your hearts, which hath lifted you up beyond that which is good because of your exceeding great riches.*

*Yea, wo be unto you because of your wickedness and abominations! And except ye repent, ye shall perish! Yea, even your lands shall be taken from you and ye shall be destroyed from off the face of the earth. (Helaman 3:21-30)*

**11.** Because of their secret societies, the people rejected the words of the Lord's prophets.<sup>30</sup>

*And they did reject all the words of the prophets because of their secret society and wicked abominations. (Ether 4:114)*

*... great and marvelous were the prophecies of Ether! But they esteemed him as naught and cast him out, and he hid himself in the cavity of a rock by day, and by night he went forth viewing the things which should come upon the people; And as he dwelt in the cavity of a rock, he made the remainder of this record, viewing the destructions which came upon the people, by night. And it came to pass that in that same year which he was cast out from among the people; there began to be a great war among the people, for there were many who rose up who were mighty men and sought to destroy Coriantumr by their secret plans of wickedness of which hath been spoken. (Ether 6:14-16)*

**12.** These secret societies or combinations de-

<sup>29</sup> (cf. Ether 4:97)

<sup>30</sup> (cf. III Nephi 3:41,42 with III Nephi 4:66)

stabilize governments.

*And the regulations of the government were destroyed because of the secret combination of the friends and kindreds of those who murdered the prophets. (III Nephi 3:41)*

*And it came to pass that they did have their signs, yea, their secret signs and their secret words; and this that they might distinguish a brother who had entered into the covenant, that whatsoever wickedness his brother should do, he should not be injured by his brother, nor by those who did belong to his band who had taken this covenant. And thus they might murder and plunder and steal and commit whoredoms and all manner of wickedness contrary to the laws of their country, and also the laws of their God. (Helaman 2:146,147)*

*And thus they did obtain the sole management of the government, insomuch that they did trample under their feet and smite and rend and turn their backs upon the poor and the meek and the humble followers of God. And thus we see that they were in an awful state and ripening for an everlasting destruction. (Helaman 2:166,167)*

*For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it [secret combination] up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; And it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people; for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies, even that same liar who beguiled our first parents, yea, even that same liar which hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning, which hath hardened the hearts of men that they have murdered the prophets and stoned them and cast them out from the beginning. (Ether 3:99-101)*

**13.** God will destroy these secret works of darkness so He might bring Zion again upon the earth.

*And he that fighteth against Zion shall perish, saith God; for he that raiseth up a king against Me shall perish; for I the Lord, the King of heaven, will be their king, and I will be a light upon them forever that hear My words.*

*Wherefore, for this cause, that My covenants may be fulfilled which I have made unto the children of men, that I will do unto them while they are in the flesh, **I must needs destroy the secret works of darkness, and of murders and of abominations;** Wherefore, he that fighteth against Zion, both Jew and Gentile, both bond and free, both male and female, shall perish: For they are they which are the whore of all the earth; For they which are not for Me are against Me, saith our God; For I will fulfill My promises which I have made unto the children of men, that I will do unto them while they are in the flesh. (II Nephi 7:20-26)*

**14.** Notwithstanding all their secret plans and covenants, all things that are done in secret will be revealed.<sup>31</sup>

*Wherefore, the things of all nations shall be made known: yea, all things shall be made known unto the children of men. There is nothing which is secret, save it shall be revealed; there is no work of darkness, save it shall be made manifest in the light; and there is nothing which is sealed upon the earth, save it shall be loosed. Wherefore, all things which have been revealed unto the children of men, shall at that day be revealed; And Satan shall have power over the hearts of the children of men no more, for a long time. (II Nephi 12:96-99)*

*And now, my son, these directors were prepared that the word of God might be fulfilled which he spake, saying: I will bring forth out of darkness unto light all their secret works*

<sup>31</sup> (cf. D&C 1:1 & 3:3-4,13c & Isaiah 29:27,28 IR with Luke 2:35; see II Nephi 11:118-160)

*and their abominations; And, except they repent, I will destroy them from off the face of the earth; And I will bring to light all their secrets and abominations unto every nation that shall hereafter possess the land. And now my son, we see that they did not repent, therefore, they have been destroyed; and thus far the word of God has been fulfilled, yea, their secret abominations have been brought out of darkness and made known unto us. (Alma 17:56-58)*

*But I knowing that these things must surely be made known, and that all things which are hid must be revealed upon the housetops, and also that a knowledge of these things must come unto the remnant of these people, and also unto the Gentiles which the Lord hath said should scatter this people, and this people should be counted as nought among them. Therefore, I write a small abridgment, daring not to give a full account of the things which I have seen because of the commandment which I have received, and also that ye might not have too great sorrow because of the wickedness of this people. And now behold, this I speak unto their seed, **and also to the Gentiles** which have care for the house of Israel, that realize and know from whence their blessings come. (Mormon 2:35-37)*

**15.** The covenant people of the Lord, even those who have received great blessings at the Lord's hand, will be overrun if they harden their hearts against the word of the Lord and fail to give diligent heed to His commands.

*And thus we see that the Spirit of the Lord began to withdraw from the Nephites because of the wickedness and the hardness of their hearts. And thus we see that the Lord began to pour out his Spirit upon the Lamanites because of their easiness and willingness to believe in His word. And it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gaddianton; and they did preach the word of*

*God among the more wicked part of them, insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from among the Lamanites.*

*And it came to pass on the other hand, that the Nephites did build them up and support them, beginning at the more wicked part of them, until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites and had seduced the more part of the righteous, until they had come down to believe in their works and partake of their spoils and to join with them in their secret murders and combinations.*

*And thus they did obtain the sole management of the government, insomuch that they did trample under their feet and smite and rend and turn their backs upon the poor and the meek and the humble followers of God. And thus we see that they were in an awful state and ripening for an everlasting destruction. (Helaman 2:162-167)*

**16.** The only way that proved successful in dealing with the Gaddiantons was to preach the word of God to them, in particular *the more wicked part of them.*

*And it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gaddianton; and they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them, insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from among the Lamanites. (Helaman 2:164)*

**17.** The peoples of old received forgiveness and the judgments of God were turned away from them because they humbled themselves and repented and *swept away the band of Gaddianton* from among them until it was *extinct.*

*And the people began to plead with their chief judges and their leaders, that they would say unto Nephi: Behold, we know that thou art a man of God; and therefore, cry unto the Lord our God that he turn away from us this famine, lest all the words which thou hast spoken concerning our destruction, be fulfilled.*

And it came to pass that the judges did say unto Nephi according to the words which had been desired. And it came to pass that when Nephi saw that the people had repented and did humble themselves in sackcloth, he cried again unto the Lord, saying: **O Lord, behold this people repenteth; And they have swept away the band of Gaddianton from amongst them, insomuch that they have become extinct and they have concealed their secret plans in the earth.** Now, O Lord, because of this their humility, wilt Thou turn away Thine anger, and let Thine anger be appeased in the destruction of those wicked men whom Thou hast already destroyed? O Lord, wilt Thou turn away Thine anger, yea, Thy fierce anger, and cause that this famine may cease in this land? O Lord, wilt Thou hearken unto me, and cause that it may be done according to my words, and send forth rain upon the face of the earth, that she may bring forth her fruit and her grain in the season of grain? O Lord, Thou didst hearken unto my words when I said, Let there be a famine that the pestilence of the sword might cease; and I know that Thou wilt, even at this time, hearken unto my words, for Thou saidst, that if this people repent, I will spare them. Yea, O Lord, and Thou seest that they have repented because of the famine and the pestilence and destruction which have come unto them. And now, O Lord, wilt Thou turn away Thine anger, and try again if they will serve Thee? And if so, O Lord, Thou canst bless them according to Thy words which Thou hast said.

And it came to pass that in the seventy and sixth year, the Lord did turn away his anger from the people and caused that rain should fall upon the earth, insomuch that it did bring forth her fruit in the season of her fruit. And it came to pass that it did bring forth her grain, in the season of her grain. And behold, the people did rejoice and glorify God, and the whole face of the land was filled with rejoicing; and they did no more seek to destroy Nephi, but they did esteem him as a great

prophet and a man of God, having great power and authority given unto him from God; And behold, Lehi his brother was not a whit behind him as to things pertaining to righteousness.

And thus it did come to pass that the people of Nephi began to prosper again in the land, and began to build up their waste places, and began to multiply and spread, even until they did cover the whole face of the land, both on the northward and on the southward, from the sea west, to the sea east. And it came to pass that the seventy and sixth year did end in peace. (Helaman 4:10-25)

### **Brotherhood of Darkness**

In his book, *Brotherhood of Darkness*, Dr. Stanley Monteith reviews a number of secret societies and organizations, clearly showing that there are many in existence today. He further explains that many who belong to these organizations, such as the Masons, are unaware of the inner workings of their organizations. Here is one of a number of quotes he provides from prominent Masons to substantiate his statements:

“Freemasonry is a fraternity within a fraternity – an outer organization concealing an inner brotherhood of the elect. Before it is possible to intelligently discuss the origin of the Craft, it is necessary to establish the existence of these two separate yet interdependent orders, the one visible and the other invisible. The visible society is a splendid camaraderie of “free and accepted” men enjoined to devote themselves to ethical, educational, fraternal, patriotic, and humanitarian concerns. The invisible society is a secret and most august fraternity whose members are dedicated to the service of a mystery *arcanum arcanorum*<sup>32</sup> ...”<sup>33</sup>

As Manly P. Hall, the writer of these words con-

<sup>32</sup> According to various authors, *arcanum arcanorum* is said to mean *secret of secrets* or *an ultimate secret*.

<sup>33</sup> *Brotherhood of Darkness*, Dr. Stanley Monteith, Bible Belt Publishing, Oklahoma City, OK, © 2000, p. 74

firms, many who belong to the “outer” organization(s) of Freemasonry are unaware of the inner brotherhood, which is protected by the use of a degree system that initiates must pass through to gain further “light” about the true nature of the craft. Dr. Monteith adds, “Most Masons have no understanding of the mysterious *arcanum arcanorum*, but are used by those who do.”<sup>34</sup> That is to say, the majority of members of this secret society are essentially “window dressing” for the inner brotherhood, giving it the appearance of being concerned with various noble activities and causes while being dedicated to *the service of a mystery*.

### **Mystery, Babylon the Great**

What *mystery* does the inner brotherhood of darkness serve? It is *Mystery, Babylon the Great*, the great whore of the earth who makes the nations drink of her fornication.

*And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Revelation 17:5)*

*Let no man deceive you by any means; for there shall come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all this is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as god sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is god. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, and he it is who now worketh, and Christ suffereth him to work, until the time is fulfilled that he shall be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the*

*brightness of his coming. Yea, the Lord, even Jesus, whose coming is not until after there cometh a falling away, by the working of Satan with all power, and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (II Thessalonians 2:3-12 IR)*

*... Behold, verily I say that the field was the world, and the apostles were the sowers of the seed; and after they have fallen asleep, the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan, sitteth to reign; behold, he soweth the tares, wherefore the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness. (D&C 84:1)*

It is the *mystery*, the enemy, who persecutes the church and drives her into the wilderness.<sup>35</sup>

*And now I show unto you a mystery, a thing which is had in secret chambers, to bring to pass even your destruction, in process of time, and ye knew it not, but now I tell it unto you. (D&C 38:4a)*

*And again I say unto you, that the enemy in the secret chambers seeketh your lives. (D&C 38:6b)*

### **I am Also a Son of God**

Dr. Monteith notes that Albert Pike, the leading Masonic philosopher of the nineteenth century, clearly identified Satan, the Prince of Darkness, Lucifer, as the lord of their craft.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>35</sup> (cf. II Thessalonians 2:7 with Revelation 12:1-7 & Helaman 5:125-139)

<sup>36</sup> Ibid (Monteith), pp. 126-128.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid, p. 129

Simply stated, Albert Pike was one of many who has believed Satan's lie, that he is *also a son of God*, even *the Only Begotten* (cf. D&C 22:12).

*And Adam and Eve blessed the name of God; and they made all things known unto their sons and their daughters. And Satan came among them, saying, I am also a son of God, and he commanded them, saying, Believe it not. And they believed it not; and they loved Satan more than God. And men began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual and devilish. (Genesis 4:12,13 IR)*

*And now, when Moses had said these words, Satan cried with a loud voice, and went upon the earth, and commanded, saying, I am the Only Begotten, worship me. (D&C 22:12)*

Like Gaddianton of old, Albert Pike fell prey to Satan's cunning and entered into a covenant, with its secret oaths, to *carry on the work of darkness* in his generation and beyond and, thus, to perpetuate the craft first delivered to Cain.<sup>37</sup> All such oaths come of evil.

*Again, it hath been written by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths. But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King; neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communications be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (Matthew 5:37-39)*

### Which Enoch's City?

Throughout the ages many have tapped the "seething energies of Lucifer," described in the

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<sup>37</sup> (cf. Helaman 2:150-156)

writings of Manly P. Hall, the noted Masonic author.<sup>38</sup> In return for their worship, Satan gave them wealth and power – just as he had done for the secret order of Gaddianton.<sup>39</sup>

The first was Cain, who murdered to obtain his brother's flock.<sup>40</sup> Once expelled from the presence of the Lord (spiritual death), he built a city he called Enoch.<sup>41</sup> As Bob Moore explains in his book, *The Restitution*, Cain founded his city to gain wealth and prominence.<sup>42</sup>

Later, Enoch, a man of the lineage of Seth, also built a city.<sup>43</sup> Unlike the city founded by Cain, the city built by Seth's descendant was not established to gain wealth and power. Rather it was founded for a city of the righteous, even Zion. As it is written, her citizens *were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them.*<sup>44</sup>

These two cities stand in stark contrast unto this day. Just as Satan put it in the heart of Cain to deceive many by building a counterfeit city called Enoch, the secret societies continue to labor to build anew the city of Enoch founded by Cain. They refer to it by terms such as the New Order, Atlantis, etc. They believe it is God's plan to unite all races, religions, and creeds under Lucifer.<sup>45</sup> It is a counterfeit utopia.

The true city of Enoch, called *the city of Holiness, even Zion*, awaits a people who will forsake the lies of the devil and not be deceived into thinking the city of the secret societies is the city of our God. It is not. The city they pursue is that great and spacious building which will fall, even MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT.

*And I [Lehi] also cast my eyes round about and beheld a great and spacious building,*

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid (Monteith), p.128

<sup>39</sup> Ibid (Monteith), p.129; cf. Helaman 2:150-156

<sup>40</sup> (Genesis 5:14-26 IR)

<sup>41</sup> (Genesis 5:27 IR & II Nephi 6:27)

<sup>42</sup> *The Restitution*, Bob Moore, © 1993, p. 21

<sup>43</sup> (Genesis 7:23-25 IR with Jude 1:14)

<sup>44</sup> (Genesis 7:23-25 IR with Jude 1:14)

<sup>45</sup> Ibid (Monteith), p.128-30; cf. Isaiah 14:12

*and it stood, as it were, in the air high above the earth; and it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceeding fine...And he also saw other multitudes pressing their way toward that **great and spacious building**...and great was the multitude that did enter into that strange building...* (I Nephi 2:71-74,79,82)

*And I beheld that they were in a **large and spacious building** like unto the building which my father saw. And the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying: Behold the world and the wisdom thereof; Yea, behold, the house of Israel hath gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And it came to pass that I saw and bear record that the great and spacious building was the pride of the world, and it fell, and the fall thereof was exceeding great. And the angel of the Lord spake unto me, saying: Thus shall be the destruction of all nations, kindreds, tongues and people that shall fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (I Nephi 3:90-95)*

*And the time speedily cometh that great things are to be shown forth unto the children of men; but without faith shall not anything be shown forth **except desolations upon Babylon**, the same which has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornications. (D&C 34:3d)*

*And the angels are waiting the great command to reap down the earth, to gather the tares that they may be burned; and, behold, the enemy is combined. (D&C 38:3c)*

### **Get Ye Out of Babylon**

As it was in the beginning, so it is today; many love the secret workings of darkness, calling good evil and evil good.<sup>46</sup> They keep Sa-

<sup>46</sup> (cf. Matthew 24:44-51, John 3:19,20 & Isaiah 5:20-26)

tan's commandments, which are carnal, sensual, and devilish, because they love Satan more than God.<sup>47</sup> The best gifts, faith, hope and charity (i.e. the fountain of all righteousness),<sup>48</sup> are far from the thoughts and intents of their hearts.<sup>49</sup> Consequently, the Lord has caused the warning voice to be lifted up anew in these latter days, saying:

*Hearken, O ye people of my church, saith the voice of him who dwells on high, and whose eyes are upon all men; yea, verily I say, Hearken ye people from afar, and ye that are upon the islands of the sea, listen together; for verily the voice of the Lord is unto all men, and there is none to escape, and there is no eye that shall not see, neither ear that shall not hear, neither heart that shall not be penetrated; **and the rebellious shall be pierced with much sorrow, for their iniquities shall be spoken upon the housetops, and their secret acts shall be revealed...** (D&C 1:1a-c)*

*Wherefore the voice of the Lord is unto the ends of the earth, that all that will hear may hear; prepare ye, prepare ye for that which is to come, for the Lord is nigh; and the anger of the Lord is kindled, and his sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon the inhabitants of the earth; and the arm of the Lord shall be revealed; and the day cometh that they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off from among the people; for they have strayed from mine ordinances, and have broken mine everlasting covenant; they seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, **but every man walketh in his own way, and after the image of his own god, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old***

<sup>47</sup> (Genesis 4:13 IR)

<sup>48</sup> (cf. Ether 5:29 with D&C 46:3c-4a & I Corinthians 12:31-13:13)

<sup>49</sup> (cf. Psalm 10:4)

*and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall.* (D&C 1:3)

Babylon's destruction is sure.<sup>50</sup> Therefore the Lord commands all who will hear His voice to *get out of Babylon, that the great and spacious building ... the pride of the world*, to go out from the nations, from the midst of wickedness, which is *spiritual Babylon*.

*Go ye out from Babylon. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord. Call your solemn assemblies, and speak often one to another. And let every man call upon the name of the Lord; yea, verily I say unto you again, The time has come when the voice of the Lord is unto you, **Go ye out of Babylon**; gather ye out from among the nations, from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

*Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations which are afar off; unto the islands of the sea; send forth unto foreign lands; call upon all nations; firstly, upon the Gentiles, and then upon the Jews. And, behold, and lo, this shall be their cry, and the voice of the Lord unto all people: Go ye forth unto the land of Zion, that the borders of my people may be enlarged, and that her stakes may be strengthened, and that Zion may go forth unto the regions round about; yea, let the cry go forth among all people: Awake and arise and go forth to meet the Bridegroom. Behold, and lo, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him. Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord.*

*Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour. Let them, therefore, who are among the Gentiles, flee unto Zion. And let them who be of Judah, flee unto Jerusalem, unto the mountains of the Lord's house. **Go ye out from among the nations, even from Babylon, from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon.*** (D&C 108:2b-4b)

<sup>50</sup> (cf. Revelation 18:1-24 with D&C 34:3d)

## Awake to a Sense of Your Awful Situation

While Moroni was abridging the record of Ether – and while avoiding capture by the Lamanites – the Lord had him write specifically to us, this Gentile nation, about secret combinations. The message revealed the wisdom of God in showing us how secret combinations had brought destruction to the peoples who had inhabited this land long before us. Simply stated, the same will happen to us if we fail to repent and allow these secret combinations to get above us.

*And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed; for the Lord will not suffer that the blood of His saints, which shall be shed by them, shall always cry unto Him from the ground for vengeance upon them and yet He avenge them not;*

*Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you; Yea, even the sword of the justice of the Eternal God shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction if ye shall suffer these things to be;*

*Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation because of this secret combination which shall be among you, or wo be unto it because of the blood of them who have been slain! For they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it, and also upon those who build it up. For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries; And it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people; for it is built up by the devil, which is the fa-*

*ther of all lies, even that same liar which beguiled our first parents, Yea, even that same liar which hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning, which hath hardened the hearts of men that they have murdered the prophets and stoned them and cast them out from the beginning.*

***Wherefore, I, Moroni, am commanded to write these things that evil may be done away, and that the time may come that satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men, but that they may be persuaded to do good continually, that they may come unto the fountain of all righteousness and be saved.***  
(Ether 3:95-102)

Will we heed the Lord's command *to awake to a sense of our awful situation* and repent as admonished or will we stay and sleep until the Lord calls again for the wicked to arise and be judged?<sup>51</sup> If we heed His word to be one in Christ – to be *more wise* than those of old – our Lord promises to preserve us from destruction.<sup>52</sup> Otherwise we will be swept off of this land as those before us according to the decrees of God because we failed to worship our Lord.

*And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of His wrath shall come upon them; And the fullness of His wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity; for behold, this is a land which is choice above all other lands; Wherefore, he that doth possess it shall serve God or shall be swept off, for it is the everlasting decrees of God; and it is not until the fullness of iniquity among the children of the land that they are swept off.*

*And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent and not continue in your iniquities*

<sup>51</sup> (cf. D&C 43:5 with D&C 85:29:30 & Alma 19:5661)

<sup>52</sup> (cf. Mormon 4:97 with D&C 38:6a with Genesis 7:69 IR)

*until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land hath hitherto done.*

*Behold, this is a choice land; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage and from captivity and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land which is Jesus Christ, which hath been manifested by the things which we have written.* (Ether 1:31-35)

The call is plain and precious.

*Hearken, O, ye Gentiles, and hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which He hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you. For, behold, He commandeth me that I should write, saying:*

*Turn, all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways! And repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, And come unto Me, and be baptized in My name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with My people, which are of the house of Israel.*  
(III Nephi 14:1-3)

Oh, that we would hear the voice of the Lord, that which the Spirit is saying to the church, to heed the call and flee the destruction to come. When we do, according to His everlasting covenant, the Lord will bring again Zion upon the earth.

*And this is mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; And the general assembly of the church of*

*the Firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with they father Enoch. (Genesis 9:22,23 IR)*

In the words of Jacob, *O be wise! What can I say more?*<sup>53</sup> Zion awaits.

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<sup>53</sup> (Jacob 4:17)